

BOSTON, MASS.
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR

M- 177,755

FEB 25 1967

STAT

Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500400009-7

U.A.R., Syria charge West aids 'enemies'

By John K. Cooley
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Beirut, Lebanon

Presidents Nasser of the United Arab Republic and Attasi of Syria have both given bleak accounts of United States-Arab relations.

Each spoke on the Feb. 22 anniversary of the 1958 union of Egypt and Syria, which broke up in September, 1961. Both Presidents used some of the strongest terms ever in charging "open support and collaboration" between the West, especially the United States, and both Israel and their "reactionary" Arab foes.

President Attasi repeated earlier calls for an early "war of liberation" against Israel. President Nasser avoided this theme but reaffirmed his intention to stand by the Egypto-Syrian defense pact in case of Arab-Israel hostilities.

President Nasser's 2½-hour speech at Cairo University marked a new low in United States-United Arab Republic relations. These have declined steadily since Washington failed to renew easy food sales terms which expired last June.

U.S. debt rejected

For the first time President Nasser indicated he would not repay past United States loans, citing American "economic pressure." He said, "We shall not pay what we owe to those who apply economic pressure against us. Those who want to collect their loans have to run after us."

A United States refusal to supply \$150,000,000 in wheat annually, he added, caused economic difficulties. It compelled Cairo to sell "some" gold reserves last year.

President Nasser said Washington's displeasure stemmed from his differences with Saudi Arabian King Faisal. He also repeated old charges that in 1965 the United States tried to acquire the right of inspection of United Arab Republic nuclear projects and to limit rocket and jet aircraft production.

CIA scoffed at

President Nasser blamed the United States "secret services" and Central Intelligence Agency for a host of Mideastern problems.

He traced American hostility to him in detail since the Eisenhower administration in 1957. Each reference to the CIA brought laughter from his audience.

President Nasser disclosed that top-level United Arab Republic military mission to Syria in December was prompted by specific Israeli threats to occupy Jordan's West Bank region, following disorders there

Damascus agreed on joint action in such an eventuality.

Jordan announced Feb. 23 it was recalling its Ambassador to Cairo because of President Nasser's insulting remarks about King Hussein.

United States officials in Washington said they were "studying" President Nasser's remark about not paying back loans.

President Nasser said King Faisal spends huge sums on arms and propaganda "because he knows that if he wins he wins everything and if he loses he loses everything."

The United Arab Republic banned overflights by American planes carrying arms to Jordan because Jordan was cooperating with Arabia in helping royalists in Yemen, President Nasser said.

United States planes now fly a circuitous route from Libya's Wheelus Field over the Sudan and Saudi Arabia to Jordan.)

Nationalist aid promised

President Nasser revealed his country was preparing a "revolutionary army" to aid nationalists in Aden and South Arabia. He said they would fight a "mercenary" army which Saudi Arabia and Britain are preparing for the time of British withdrawal, expected next year.

He expressed fears of a Syrian-Iraqi clash over the oil dispute which has closed Syria's pipeline exports of Iraqi oil. He said the

United Arab Republic was ready to exert efforts to prevent this.

In Damascus, President Attasi was, meanwhile, saying Syria would "fight the oil battle to the end until the slogan of Arab oil for the Arabs" has been fulfilled.

President Nasser accused American and British newspapers and broadcasts of anti-United Arab Republic campaigns while ignoring anti-Faisal activity, especially bomb explosions in Saudi Arabia. Cairo newspapers earlier announced appointment of Richard Nolte as new United States Ambassador to Cairo.

Mr. Nolte is a distinguished scholar who heads the Institute of Current World Affairs in New York. He will replace Lucius D. Battle, named Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Pers. Nasser, Gamal Abdel
CIA 4 U.A.R.

Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500400009-7